

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 01599 190653Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
HA-05 IO-14 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
/112 W

-----032370 200221Z /70

R 181114Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7710
INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

UNCLAS FREETOWN 1599

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, SL
SUBJ: ONE PARTY STATE CONSTITUTION

REF: FREETOWN 1578

1. DEPUTY CLERK OF PARLIAMENT GILPIN-JACKSON INFORMED EMBOFF
THAT BILL INTRODUCING NEW CONSTITUTION FORMALLY WILL BE
PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT MONDAY, MAY 22. GILPIN-JACKSON
STATED PROCEDURES OF PARLIAMENT REQUIRE MINIMUM OF NINE DAYS
BETWEEN PUBLICATION OF NEW BILL IN SIERRA LEONE GAZETTE
AND INTRODUCTION OF BILL IN PARLIAMENT. THIS HAD NOT BEEN
OBSERVED SINCE DRAFT CONSTITUTION NOT GAZETTED UNTIL MAY 13.

2. FIRST, FAST READING OF NEW CONSTITUTION REVEALS THAT:
PRESIDENT WILL HAVE GREATLY INCREASED EXECUTIVE POWERS;
POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN ABOLISHED AND REPLACED
BY A SECOND VICE PRESIDENT; PERSONS DETAINED UNDER PUBLIC
EMERGENCY ACT CANNOT REQUEST JUDICIAL REVIEW OF DETENTION
UNTIL SPENDING AT LEAST SIX MONTHS IN DETENTION, QUOTE SAFE-
GUARDING THE PROPER FUNCTIONING OF THE RECOGNIZED PARTY
UNQUOTE IS EXCLUDED FROM THE PROTECTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION;
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RESTRICTIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES
EXCLUDED FROM PROTECTION OF FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIA-
TION.

3. FURTHER: PRESIDENT TO BE ELECTED BY NATIONAL DELEGATES
CONFERENCE OF RECOGNIZED PARTY FOR PERIOD OF SEVEN YEARS:
STEVENS TO CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT QUOTE AS IF HAD BEEN ELECTED

UNQUOTE UNDER NEW CONSTITUTION; ALL EXISTING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SHALL MAKE A DECLARATION THAT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE RECOGNIZED PARTY; MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT NOT MEMBERS OF RECOGNIZED PARTY WHO DO NOT MAKE A DECLARATION IN WRITING TO THE SPEAKER WITHIN 24 DAYS OF NEW CONSTITUTION TAKING EFFECT THAT THEY HAVE APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE RECOGNIZED PARTY SHALL BE PRESUMED TO HAVE VACATED THEIR SEATS ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION; THE ALL PEOPLES CONGRESS (APC) IS THE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED ONE PARTY.

4. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF NEW CONSTITUTION WILL BE FURNISHED BY AIRGRAM.
NORTH

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NNN

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TAGS: PINT, SL
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